

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

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USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-04 SAJ-01 NEA-06 AID-05 /071 W

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P R 241608Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 847

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR, GW, IT

SUBJ: MINISTER VITOR ALVES TO VISIT FRANCE, GERMANY, AND  
ITALY

REF: PARIS 25012

SUMMARY: MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VITOR ALVES TO VISIT  
FRANCE, GERMANY, AND ITALY. ALVES IS KEY FIGURE IN GOP.  
EMBASSY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE PORTUGUESE TURN AWAY FROM  
EUROPE AND RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT POSTS WHERE  
ALVES VISITS TO ENCOURAGE HOST GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE ALVES  
WARM RECEPTION AND MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT KEEP ALVES AND  
PORTUGAL COMMITTED TO WEST. END SUMMARY.

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MAJOR  
VITOR AVLES WILL BE VISITING FRANCE, GERMANY, AND ITALY  
SOON IN ORDER TO BRIEF THOSE COUNTRIES ON CURRENT SITUATION IN  
PORTUGAL, REASSURE THEM ON GOP COMMITMENT TO NATO, AND  
PERHAPS REQUEST ASSISTANCE.

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2. EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ADDRESSEES TO KNOW

THE IMPORTANT OF ALVES IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE HERE. ALVES, 39, AN ARMY MAJOR WITH EXTENSIVE SERVICE IN AFRICA, WAS A KEY FIGURE IN FOUNDING OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND IS NOW ONE OF TOP THREE OFFICERS IN THE MOVEMENT'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CC). CC IS PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT POWER CENTER IN GOVERNMENT THESE DAYS. ALVES' FORMAL RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE ACTING HEAD OF DEFENSE AND INFORMATION MINISTRIES. WE BELIEVE THAT AFTER PRIME MINISTER, ALVES IS MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

3. ALVES, AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER OF ENGLISH, HAS BEEN GOP'S PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN TO FOREIGN PRESS. HE IS SMART, FAST ON HIS FEET, AND ARTICULATE. ALVES HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND ACCESSIBLE TO THIS EMBASSY. HE HAS NEVER BEEN TO U.S.

4. IN THE PAST, ALVES HAS TOLD US HE BELIEVES PORTUGAL SHOULD STICK WITH NATO AND RENEW AZORES BASE AGREEMENT. HE HAS ALSO SAID HE FAVORS SOCIAL DEMOCRACY ALONG LINES OF GERMAN MODEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED RECENTLY BY STATEMENTS MADE BY ALVES AND OTHERS IN GOP OF SPECIAL ROLE PORTUGAL WILL HAVE IN THIRD WORLD. THESE STATEMENTS CAN BE INTERPRETED SIMPLY AS REFERRING TO SOME SORT OF VAGUE LINK WITH THIRD WORLD AND SERVICE AS MIDDLE MAN BETWEEN THIRD WORLD AND EUROPE OR, MORE DANGEROUSLY, A MOVE TO REJECT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASSOCIATION WITH EUROPE. SOME IN PORTUGAL ARE ARGUING THAT PORTUGAL SHOULD TAKE NON-ALIGNED STANCE, LEAVE NATO, REJECT CLOSER ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITH EUROPE, AND NOT RENEW LAJES BASE ACCORD, REPLACING THESE ASSOCIATIONS WITH NON-ALIGNED AND THIRD WORLD CONTACTS--THE TRANSITION IMPLICITLY TO BE GREASED WITH ARAB OIL AND MONEY.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT EUROPEANS, WITH TRADITIONAL AND LONG-STANDING CULTURAL LINKS TO PORTUGAL, HAVE STRONG INFLUENCE HERE. COUNTRIES WHICH ALVES WILL VISIT ARE IN POSITION TO EXERT IMPORTANT IF NOT DECISIVE INFLUENCE OVER WHICH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PATHS PORTUGAL TAKES. WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED AT VISIT TO PORTUGAL BY BRANDT AND PLANNED VISIT BY PALME AND NORDIC GROUP. WE HOPE THAT COUNTRIES ALVES VISITS WILL GIVE HIM WARM RECEPTION AND STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT TO SEEK PORTUGAL'S FUTURE WITH WEST.

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6. FOR DEPARTMENT: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT. INSTRUCT POSTS WHERE ALVES WILL VISIT TO BRING THE ABOVE INFORMATION TO ATTENTION OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS AND ENCOURAGE MAJOR EFFORT ON HOST COUNTRIES' PART TO ACCORD ALVES RECEPTION HIS IMPORTANCE HERE MERITS AND MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT DURING VISIT TO KEEP ALVES AND PORTUGAL FIRMLY ON A WESTERN PATH.

SCOTT

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## Message Attributes

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